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06/12/2012 Minutes

Sustainable Arlington
 June 12, 2012
 Meeting Minutes

On June 12, 2012 Vision 2020's Sustainable Arlington held its monthly meeting in the Arlington Town Hall Annex, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Co-Chair Gail McCormick called the meeting to order, asked for comments and a vote on the draft minutes of the May meeting and invited those present to introduce themselves. Those present were Ryan Katofsky, DeAnne Dupont, Michael Wolfson, Scott Samenfeld, Laura Notman, David Landskov, Gail McCormick, Brucie Moulton, and visitors Brinna Durney and Cristiano Azevedo.

Scott Samenfeld reported on the successful Arlington Alive! Arts community meeting held Thursday, June 7.

Ryan Katofsky, reported substantial progress on Arlington's solarization drive program through SolarizeMASS 2012. The Solar 101 event at Town Hall had over 250 attendees and 200 people signed up for assessments solar PV through the program. Another 70 people have contacted him and there were 30 sign-ups at Arlington's Feast of the East event on Saturday, June 16. Ryan's hoping for 1,000 solar assessment sign-ups by the September 30, 2012 deadline and 200 to 300 installations over the coming year. This program covers systems 15 kilowatts and smaller. The Solarize Arlington installer has been selected and the group will have their first meeting with the installer on June 21. Ryan could not reveal the name of the installing company but said that the pricing for both purchase and leasing will be excellent. A Solar 201 informational event for the Town will be scheduled in the second half of July and will include the installer. Laura Notman noted the importance for each homeowner of studying the details of the agreement reached with their solar installer.

Brucie Moulton reported on Vision 2020 standing committee and leadership changes. Long-time Co-Chair Jane Howard just stepped down after 22 years of immense effort and diligence on behalf of the Town. Continuing Co-Chair Joey Glushko of the Town Planning Department has worked with Vision 2020 for over 10 years. Brucie and the Diversity Task Group's Mary Harrison will now join her as new Co-Chairs of Vision 2020. This leadership change occurs just as the Town begins a 3- to 5-year Master Planning Process. It's probably time to review and retune Vision 2020, now 20 plus years into its original time frame and rapidly closing on the year 2020.

Gail McCormick reported on Sustainable Arlington's June 6 tour of Deer Island. This facility is one of the largest of its kind in the U.S. It has 3 wind turbines (one of which as an experimental model was free), solar panels, a co-generation system converting methane to power, and also generates energy from the gravity outfall of treated water. Because it's a level two system, the water is not treated to drinking water quality before release. Sludge from Deer Island is converted to fertilizer. The facility also uses extremely efficient lighting. In sum, there's a high degree of environmental taking place but, strikingly there is essentially no plan for sea level rise and higher storm surge, beyond one little wall.

Planning for Sustainable Arlington's fall meetings and possible speakers is underway. John Anderson of the New England Aquarium is a possible guest speaker on climate change. We need to collaborate with other Town groups to make this a big event, worthy of bringing him here. Brucie suggested that Vision 2020 would be one such group and will propose that to the Standing Committee at the July meeting.

Gail McCormick described the theme for Arlington EcoFest 2013. It will focus on outdoor Arlington – how we use, protect, enhance or imperil our outdoor resources. This land use issue affecting the community as a whole in various ways.

David Landskov noted that the SA calendar didn't have much listed for the summer months. As Charlotte Milan was

absent, no date was set for Sustainable Arlington's July BBQ.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by,
Brucie Moulton